

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 12, 14, 18-20, and 26 include allowable subject matter. However, the Examiner objected to these claims for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 10 and 12. Applicants have amended claim 22 to include the limitations of claims 24 and 26. Applicants have also rewritten claims 14 and 18-19 in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 10, 12-13, 16-17, 24, 26, and 28-31 have been canceled. Pursuant to the amendments indicated herein, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-8, 11, 14-15, 18-23, 25, and 27 are pending in the present application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims include allowable subject matter, as indicated by the Examiner. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that all claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (713) 934-4052 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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